RAB Minutes

NAS North Island

Restoration Advisory Board

Introduction

The fifty-seventh Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island/Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Coronado was held on Wednesday, June 16, 1999, at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:35 p.m.

Mr. Collins called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., and welcomed RAB members and the public.

RAB Attendance

Bill Collins, Carla Fargo, Laura Hunter, John Locke, Robert Logan, Richard Mach, Foster Marshall, Richard Dittbenner

Public/Navy Attendance

Rafat Abbasi, Jerry Bailey, Mark Bonsavage, Neal ClementsLaConta Coleman, Steve de Young, Stephan Dirtadian, Richard Dittbenner, Marilyn Field, Steve Hammett, Mike Hammond, Stephanie Kaupp, Ed Kleeman, Nancy Lee, Ken Mitchell, Rick Phillips, Art Van Rooy, Debbie Wankier, Bruce Willett, Rich Wong, Kim Edwards–Channel 10 News, David Villegas–Channel 10 News

Approval of March 31, 1999 revisions, and status of MAY 20, 1999 Meeting Minutes

The March 31, 1999 1999,meeting minutes were approved. It was agreed that the May 20, 1999, meeting minutes be revised to include public questions and comments, and be approved at the next RAB meeting.

Meeting Topics

The June 1999 meeting topics were the San Diego Bay Munitions Preliminary Assessment (PA) Update Presentation; Naval Aviation Depot, Buildings 379, 397, and 472 Volatile Organic Compounds Groundwater Plume Presentation; Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Sites 1-4, Extended Site Inspection Report Presentation; and Naval Air Station North Island, Site 9, Non-Time Critical Removal Action, Steam Injection/Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) Update, and an unplanned item of Special Business.

Special Business

Ms. Hunter announced that after five years of membership on the RAB, the EHC was resigning in protest of the Navy's continued refusal to include the public regarding the collective impacts of its

operations on the community's health.

Mr. Dittbenner announced that he too was resigning from the RAB. He commented that, "The interagency task force chaired by the EPA, a working group of public participation in all public agencies, had given very clear guidance on what ought to be the goals of all federal agencies, and that the navy in San Diego falls far, far short of it."

Mr. Collins noted that he had received a letter from Clifford Jordan, which indicated he would no longer attend the RAB meetings.

Presentations

San Diego Bay Munitions Preliminary Assessment (PA) Update—Steve de Young, *Bechtel National, Inc.*

Steve de Young, with Bechtel National, is the task order leader for a study known as the PA of Munitions in San Diego Bay Primary Ship Channels, and Stennis homeporting beach replenishment areas. In 1997, as part of the base realignment and closure activity, the Stennis aircraft carrier was homeported in San Diego at North Island. To accommodate the homeporting of the nuclear aircraft carrier—the bay and outside the mouth of the bay needed to be dredged to a deeper depth to allow the ship to enter the port. Due to the El Nino conditions in Southern California, a decision was made to take some of the dredged sand material and relocate it to a number of offshore areas at Mission Beach, Del Mar, and an onshore area up at South Oceanside Beach. In September 1997, as material was being placed on South Oceanside Beach, munitions were discovered on the beach. As a result, the beach was immediately shut down. The Navy initiated removal of the munitions, a long-term evaluation, and scanning of the beach. The Navy discovered eleven 20-millimeter rounds, two 81-millimeter mortar rounds, and two small caliber rifle rounds. A search continued through March of 1998, when it was determined that there were no more munitions on South Oceanside Beach.

A PA is the first step in the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. It's typically limited to an evaluation of archival records, interviews with individuals who have knowledge on relevant issues, reviews of aerial photographs, as well as a public outreach exercise. Since the initiation of the records reviews in January 1999, local, Navy, and U.S. Army Unexploded Ordnance Incidence Reports (UXOs) have been reviewed. These records are maintained only from the years of 1995 through 1999. An effort is being made to locate records prior to that date, but records were only maintained at the base or at the bases for a period of three years. In addition, Explosive Safety Officers from the area bases have been interviewed because of their knowledge and handling practices of munitions.

A Preliminary Draft Work Plan was issued in December 1998, describing how to go about conducting the PA, and as a result, comments were received back from the Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) from reviewers at the University of Maryland, and from the City of Coronado. The EHC's first comment was that no analytical data would be collected during the PA. It was concluded that the Navy would decide on no further action. They also indicated that diver studies should be done extensively in the project area, and that may well be warranted, but is not something that is normally done in a preliminary assessment.

Another comment was that the review not be restricted strictly to Navy munitions—but any munitions that were located in the bay from other arms of the military, would be included in the report. The EHC commented that potential receptors included in the PA should include future beach goers and consumers of San Diego fish. Theodore Henry, at the University of Maryland, commented that the Work Plan should be more specific on how the sources of information will be

reviewed during the preliminary assessment.

It was suggested that the EHC meet with Southwest Division to explore potential findings of the PA, and to create a decision matrix to determine how decisions would be made and how the decisions would impact future studies.

One comment from the City of Coronado was that, "Anything short of some physical sampling will tell little, and such sampling is certainly justified." Mr. De Young stated that the purpose of the PA is not to do sampling, but to review the records and to interview.

A community relations activity was conducted in support of the PA. To date, an interview questionnaire, and a list of interviewees have been developed and reviewed by a Public Participation Specialist at the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The Navy has sent out letters to more than 60 individuals requesting that they participate in the community relations interview process. An "800" telephone number was opened where people could anonymously or otherwise call in and provide information. As part of community relations, a number of public notices and papers have been issued to try and get more of the former Navy employees to provide information on the process of past munitions handling practices.

It is expected that the preliminary draft PA report will be completed in August of 1999, and depending on when the DTSC comments are received, the Work Plan may be finalized July of 1999.

A question was raised wondering why the analysis was limited to the primary ship channel.

Mr. Bonsavage answered, "Basically, the munitions that were discovered—remembering that "discovery" is an important word when it comes to the PA, was part of the dredging project. It limited to that project, because the "discovered" munitions were part of that project. The idea was to keep it manageable, and to find the source of the items that were found as a result of the project. That is why it was limited in scope."

Ms. Fargo asked, *"Is the preliminary assessment scope going to change, based on the final report?"*

Mr. Bonsavage answered, "If something was found that would fall under CERCLA and was significant, it would constitute an Site Inspection (SI), and then they would act on the finding.

Naval Aviation Depot, Buildings 379, 397, and 472 Volatile Organic Compounds Groundwater Plume —Richard Mach, *SWDIV RPM*

Mr. Mach presented an overview of a removal action of free-product, and all petroleum. A site assessment was completed that identified about 90 percent of the free-product boundary. OHM was awarded a delivery order to remove the free-product that was floating on the water table. During the removal, it was discovered that there was some trichloroethene (TCE) in the free-product, and the removal action was stopped.

Ms. Field questioned, "What is the free-product?

Mr. Mach replied, that is was petroleum—jet fuel, JP-5 and some Stoddard solvent.

Ms. Fargo questioned the quantity of product.

Mr. Mach estimated a depth of one foot thick, requiring 20 wells to remove the free-product.

Mr. Mach continued, that the Remedial Action Contractor (RAC)contractor, OHM, went to the site, had work plans approved, and installed 20 groundwater monitoring—or free-product recovery wells. They also installed some downgradient groundwater monitoring wells to make sure that the investigation report was accurate, and to verify that the free-product wasn't migrating. The findings indicated that the free-product extent was four times larger than previously suspected, and that the center contour of the new plume was five feet thick.

As a precautionary action, the Navy began testing for lead content in the free-product. In talking tih – with Naval Aviation Depot (NADEP) workers, they said, "You know, we used to use TCE in one of the buildings over there. You may want to take a look for that as well." Additional analysis of the free-product was taken, and no lead was located, however, high levels of TCE were found in the free-product.

The Navy developed a risk-based sampling approach, which provided additional information about the extent of the plume—it was necessary to determine the location of the pathways. Data Quality Objectives (DQOs) is an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approach that identifies the problems and end goals, and was used to establish an appropriate sampling approach.

The concerns were that the volatile organic compounds (VOCs)—TCE, could volatilize into the building where the NADEP workers performed their jobs daily, and that the TCE could get into the groundwater—flow with the groundwater, and reach the San Diego Bay. The Navy wanted to use an isolation flux chamber sampling device to sample the flux—or the off gas, into the buildings to determine the sources of the TCE.

Mr. Kleeman asked, "What is TCE?"

Mr. Mach responded, "TCE is trichlorethene, a chlorinated solvent, and a major contaminant on North Island. It was a solvent used to degrease parts.

A total of 24 samples were taken and analyzed for total organics, TO-14. That's an EPA method analyzing for, VOCs. It includes TCE, some of the degradation products, and fuel products. These samples were compared to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limits.

Mr. Mach stated that the results indicated very high concentrations in the upper portion of the groundwater, just below the free-product. Nothing dropped off as it went down with depth, although there was an increase on the downgradient side, indicating a potential source. The third elevation identified that there was definitely another source further downgradient that had to be investigated as well. The edge of the plume, is 92 parts per billion—which is the cleanup level, or that of Bays & Estuary Standard, as promulgated by the Water Board.

As a result of the potential downgradient source, it was necessary to begin with Phase 2—the ground water analysis in order to complete the VOC delineation. The Navy wanted to use an innovative technology because installing additional wells similar to the ones being used, would be very costly. The objective was to delineate the plume above the A siltSilt. However, everyone was concerned that the free-product was below the A siltSilt. The Navy was cautious to not drill through the A silt. If the free-product hadn't penetrated the A siltSilt, they didn't want to create a hole, giving it a pathway to flow through. That's why the investigation was limited primarily to soils above the A siltSilt, with secondary plans and then to go downgradient and look sample

below the A siltSilt.

Mr. Van Rooy questioned the diameter of the plume.

Mr. Collins responded, "It's a couple of hundred feet." Mr. Mach replied, "It's definitely over a hundred feet, and estimated about a half million gallons (plus-or-minus) of free-product.

A new sampling technology was developed by the Army's Waterways Experiment Station, called Hydrosparge II. The Navy coordinated with them and assisted with the investigation, and found TCE again below the A silt in the downgradient direction.

As part of Phase 3—the groundwater sampling, the Navy coordinated with the Army's waterways experiment station. They have a new technology, called the Membrane Interface Probe (MIP).

The Army will be used to finish the delineation. There has been extensive research and investigations, and additional information is continuously being updated. There has been a Field Sampling Plan, and a Quality Assurance Project Plan, and an addendum, which have been approved by the Water Board. Currently a second addendum is being written, which is called the Remedial Investigation (RI) Work Plan. By coupling the first Field Sampling Plan (FSP) /Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and the first addendum with this Addendum 2, the entire package is being considered the RI Work Plan.

Mr. Mach concluded by stating he still believes that the two risk pathways are—the air inhalation pathways, and the pathway of the groundwater flowing into the bay.

Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Sites 1-4, Extended Site Inspection Report——*Mark Bonsavage, SWDIV, Remedial Project Manager (RPM)*

The Extended Site Inspection report for the Naval Amphibious Base Coronado was recently completed. There This was additional a follow-up study named, to the "The Site Inspection/ Solid Waste Assessment Test (SI/SWAT)." A SWAT is basically an investigation—it's a term used by the state that applies to landfills. The Navy did an SI and a SWAT to satisfy CERCLA, and state regulations.

Site 1, was operated from 1969 to 1982—it housed 1,100 to 3,800 gallons of waste, which included oils, paints, thinners, etc. After the initial investigation, DTSC issued a closure letter for that site. It was later discovered that there was nothing out there except petroleum, which is being handled as an underground storage tank site.

Sites Two and Four2 and 4, were the only sites from the investigation that reflected significant findings. It They were was operated from the 1940s to the 1970s, and used as a burn pit and a disposal area. It housed contained motor oil, solvents, and sandblast grit. The DTSC and the Water Board reviewed findings from the original reports, and decided that the Navy should sample the groundwater again. At the present time, most of the site is paved, it has buildings residing sitting on top of the site, and the shoreline is mostly rip rap. Much of it has been reduced because of the tides raising and lowering, and over the years, a lot of the contaminants have washed out. The main concern is that there are low levels of metals, (which are the heavier compounds) located in that area. So the further action are these metals. Most of the metals persist, and will require something to control the metals from going out into the bay, or raising the levels in the bay.

Site 3 was a paint shop. It was recommended for no further action, nothing was found there.

The Navy is doing an RI, which looks at the sediments around NAB, mainly around Site 2/4 and around Site 3.

Mr. Bonsavage concluded that Site 1 and 3 are closed, and that there will be further action taken for Sites 2 and 4.

Naval Air Station North Island, Site 9, Non-Time Critical Removal Action, Steam Injection/SVE Update—Richard Mach, *SWDIV RPM*

Mr. Mach handed out a map that showed the pilot test area and all the different wells that have been installed. OHM has begun the free-product recovery out of two of the wells. No free-product has floated into the other wells. Some additional techniques are needed to develop the wells, to assist the flow. The Navy is looking at starting up the SVE system about the end June and then starting the steam injection a week later. Mr. Mach also noted that the Revised Work Plan for the full-scale implementation would be out for review at the end of the month.

Public Questions and Comments

Minutes and Meeting Agendas

While approving the May meeting minutes, Mrs. Kaupp interjected her concern that the May meeting minutes didn't include comments or questions made by the public. Mr. Mach replied that efforts would be made to go back through the transcript, extract the questions, and insert them into the May meeting minutes as a revision.

Mrs. Kaupp continued by stating that the agendas are too full, and there is not enough time for the public participation. She indicated that the public is allocated only ten minutes for questions and answers, which she doesn't feel is long enough. Ms. Field also shared the same concerns that the materials covered are presented too fast and requested to take more time to cover the agenda items.

Mr. Collins replied that the minutes would be more informative in the future and would to take into account the public's questions and comments and that future RAB meetings would be limited to three agenda items. Mr. Collins also offered to provide a summary sheet that briefly describes the other projects occurring on North Island to RAB members and attendees.

City of Coronado Representation

Mr. Kleeman mentioned that the City was in the process of trying to appoint a representative for the City, and they've had one volunteer. The City Council originally mentioned to having more than one possible representative. He asked that the appointment of that one person be placed on the City Council agenda for July 6th, and he would encourage anybody else who's interested to submit an application to the City Clerk.

Looking for New Members

Mr. Collins stated that they are going to be placing an ad in the newspaper looking for new RAB members due to the resignations of Laura Hunter, Richard Dittbenner and Clifford Jordan.

Mr. Collins then concluded the meeting by recommending two agenda items for the August RAB meeting—Site 10, and training.

San Diego Bay Munitions Preliminary AssessmentRAB Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, August 11, 1999

Thursday, September 16.1999

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Wednesday, December 1, 1999 (Note New Date)

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Collins concluded the meeting, and the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.